

## YLF Workshops 2022

**Saturday June 25 1:00-1:50pm**

**Workshop title:** Lead On! Embracing Our Legacy and Remaining Ever Vigilant

**Workshop presenter(s):** Joyce Bender

**Presenter bio(s):** Joyce Bender continues as an international leader in the area of disability employment through her role as CEO at Bender Consulting Services and CEO at Bender Leadership Academy. A person living with disabilities, epilepsy and a hearing loss, Joyce founded Bender Consulting Services, Inc. in 1995 after immersing herself in the disability community after a life-threatening accident due to a seizure. After over a decade and a half of providing a volunteer mentoring program for youth with disabilities in the western Pennsylvania region and Delaware, Joyce founded Bender Leadership Academy as a formal non-profit in 2018.

Prior to founding Bender Consulting Services, Joyce worked in the executive search industry where she ran her own search firm, Bender and Associates. Joyce is the current Vice Chair and Past Chair of the Board of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), is on the Board of Trustees for the Bazelon Center, and a current member of Disability Rights Pennsylvania and Chair of the Epilepsy Association of Western/Central Pennsylvania. She serves on the FDR Legacy Committee and the NTID National Advisory Group. Joyce received the President's Award from President Bill Clinton and the New Freedom Initiative Award from the Bush Administration.

**Workshop details:** Join international disability civil rights advocate and radio show host, Joyce Bender, as she shares lessons learned about leadership from our community's change-makers and front-line advocates. Discuss the importance of continuing to advocate for civil rights and explore what's currently in jeopardy, as well as battles fought during the COVID pandemic. Understand what you can do now and how you can be a part of forging a new era of disability inclusion and equity.

**Workshop title:** Using Research to Fuel Activism

**Workshop presenter(s):** Girls Rock Boston: Charlotte Huffman, Zoe, and Cady

**Presenter bio(s):** Zoë is 16, loves photography, drawing, painting, and writing. Cady is 13, loves to write, read, and everything about the theater. Charlotte Huffman, GRCB's Director of Community Based Programs, will be in attendance to support Cady and Zoë. GRCB is a Boston-based non-profit that empowers girls, women, and gender expansive youth and adults to believe in themselves by building a supportive community that fosters self-expression, confidence, and collaboration through music education and performance.

**Workshop details:** Youth leaders from Youth Activism Project (YAP) will share how they use research to fuel their activism. They will walk you through their process before supporting you in designing your own research and activism project.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Tools for how to make a good research question
- Tools for how to make a survey question that ties into a research question to get useful data

- An understanding of how research can be a tool for activism

**Workshop title:** Leading with Authenticity

**Workshop presenter(s):** Dante DiBattista

**Presenter bio(s):** Dante is a special education teacher turned award-winning leadership coach. He helps companies be more inclusive for people with disabilities and is a highly sought after inspirational speaker who has worked with clients ranging from startups to Fortune 500 companies. Leveraging his masters in organizational leadership, the findings from his own research, and over 7 years experience as a leadership and organizational development consultant, Dante delivers transformational results for his clients. He has worked alongside some of the best and brightest including leadership coaches from Google, psychology researchers from Stanford, and other thought-leaders in the area of human learning & development to generate powerful insights into the art and the science of leading others. His research includes the Neurobiology of Initiative, and Strategies to Reduce the School-to-Prison Pipeline, highlighting his unique ability to understand people and how they fall in the gaps between education and business.

**Workshop details:** Some of the greatest leaders were diagnosed with various disabilities. Do you know the one thing all of those leaders had in common? They learned to see their uniqueness as a strength. Leadership is not about avoiding weaknesses; it is about being honest about your strengths and trusting others to do the same. This workshop will teach you how to identify your leadership style, and how to turn it into a superpower.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Define leadership
- Identify your leadership style
- Reflect on how to use your leadership style to be true to who you are

**Sunday June 26 1:00-1:50pm**

**Workshop title:** A Pathway to Peer Employment

**Workshop presenter(s):** NILP- June Sauvageau, Helina Fontes, and Gabriel Fonseca

**Presenter bio(s):** Gabriel Fonseca is a native of Delta, Ohio. He moved to New England to obtain a master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from University of Rhode Island in 2003. Since then, he been a Manger, Coordinator, and Trainer who specializes in promoting healthy individuals, families, and communities. His main interest now is supporting peer specialists who work with people with disabilities.

**Workshop details:** By the end of this training, learners will be able to define different peer job titles and descriptions in human services. Also, learners will be able to list three employment environments available for peers to work in. I will give a thorough overview of the peer movement and philosophies.

**Workshop title:** Supporting your Education Goals

**Workshop presenter(s):** Lucy Bayard

**Presenter bio(s):** Lucy Bayard, M.Ed (she/her/hers) has over twenty years experience in the disability field promoting inclusive course design, accessible programming, and Universal Design for Learning in collaboration with faculty and staff to remove barriers for students to reach their full potential.

**Workshop details:** Join Lucy Bayard, Director of Accessibility Services at Simmons University, with over twenty years experience promoting inclusive course design, programming, and Universal Design for Learning to learn how to succeed in your learning beyond high school so you can reach your full potential! During this interactive workshop, we will discuss your Higher Education options, your educational rights in Higher Education, and how to access supports and services in College to receive equal access to learning and activities. You will learn strategies to successfully transition to College, how to register with Accessibility Services, and accommodations and supports available to you so you can succeed in your academic and personal goals. This workshop will include opportunities to ask questions and engage with your peers.

**Workshop objectives:**

I will develop an understanding of:

1. My options for learning after high school
2. My rights to equal access for learning and programming in college
3. How to access services and supports in college

**Workshop title:** Resume Personalization

**Workshop presenter(s):** Olivia Harris: Partners for Youth with Disabilities

**Presenter bio(s):** Olivia Harris currently serves as Career Readiness Program Coordinator at Partners for Youth with Disabilities. In her role she works to prepare youth and young adults with disabilities for their next steps in employment and post-secondary education. Originally from Florida, Olivia moved to Boston to pursue her BS from Northeastern University in Political Science and Human Services. Olivia is passionate about educational equity for underrepresented students and is an advocate for just and inclusive systems. She joins YLF for the second time and is excited to bring her robust experience in the education sector to this year's conference. In her free time, Olivia enjoys exploring Boston's food scene, cooking, podcasts, running, and trips with friends and family.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Understand the elements of a strong resume
- Create a resume specific to the job you want
- Create a visually appealing resume

**Sunday June 26 2:30-3:20**

**Workshop title:** Self-Care in a time of Change Workshop

**Workshop presenter(s):** Cody Reese and Mary-Kate Wells Boston Center for Independent Living

**Presenter bio(s):** Cody Reese is a Youth Transition Advocate at Boston Center for Independent Living. Cody has experience working with transition-aged youth with disabilities at the Perkins School for the Blind. At Perkins, he supported youth in their IEP process, provided direct services, and advocated for students' support needs. His energy and enthusiasm for engaging and advocating for youth with disabilities is unmatched.

Mary-Kate Wells is the Assistant Director of Services at the Boston Center for Independent Living. She works with youth with disabilities to prepare for life after high school. As a disabled person, Mary-Kate has both lived and professional experience advocating and empowering disabled youth. Mary-Kate is an avid reader and dog lover.

**Workshop details:** Join Cody Reese and Mary-Kate Wells to explore how to use self-care strategies in times of change and stress. Change and stress are a normal part of our everyday lives, but it can be hard to deal with. This workshop will explore the importance of self-care in everyday life and in times of change. Participants will be given an opportunity to practice self-care strategies— including mindful breathing, setting boundaries, and developing a self-care action plan.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Participants will be able to define self-care and 2 examples of self-care.
- Participants will practice 2 forms of self-care including mindfulness and setting boundaries.
- Participants will be provided with a tool to develop their own individualized self-care plan.

**Workshop title:** What is College? Understanding your higher education options and the skills you need to succeed

**Workshop presenter(s):** Perkins School for the Blind: Alexandra LaVoie and Leslie Thatcher

**Presenter bio(s):** Leslie Thatcher, Director, College Success at Perkins School for the Blind: Leslie brings more than 25 years of experience in college and independent school education. She's contributed to college and high school admission offices, developed programs focused on orienting young adults into new schools on the high school and college level, and advised, taught and led students in and out of the classroom.

Throughout her career, Leslie has worked to create opportunities for student growth and independence, both academically and personally. Her professional and leadership experience includes admissions, program development and student life in independent schools, including residential parenting at Worcester Academy and Cushing Academy, and as a college counselor at Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall. Additionally, she served as Associate Dean of Admission for Lewis & Clark College. Leslie consults with college-bound young adults as an independent educational consultant and executive

functioning coach. Leslie has a master's in education with a focus on adolescent development and higher education administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in History from Lewis & Clark College.

Alexandra LaVoie, Manager of Transition Outreach, Perkins School for the Blind: Alex has worked in the field of special education for over ten years and is passionate about Perkins mission to empower students who are blind and visually impaired with multiple disabilities to unlock their potential and live as independently as possible. Alex is a licensed Occupational Therapist and Special Education Administrator. Through her experience as a clinician and administrator at Perkins, Alex has developed a deep understanding of the individualized programming, unique supports and accommodations, and critical skill development that is needed to support students in achieving their post-Secondary goals. She has led a number of projects related to independent living and executive functioning at Perkins, including the development of innovative programming to address the gaps and challenges that exist for transition age youth and their families across the country. Alex has a Masters in Occupational Therapy from Boston University and B.S. in Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Workshop details:** Understanding your higher education options and the skills you need to succeed.

**Workshop objectives:**

- To develop an understanding about today's college experience and demands
- To gain a greater understanding of the differences between high school and college
- To explore various higher education opportunities
- To gain a basic awareness around the executive functioning skills needed to succeed.
- Participants will leave with specific tools to identify strengths and areas of growth.

**Workshop title:** Talent Discovery Workshop

**Workshop presenters:** Emily Berheide, OTR/L, M.Ed

**Presenter bios:** Emily Berheide, OTR/L, M.Ed. is a Talent Discovery Specialist and Transition Consultant. She is passionate about helping youth discover their unique areas of talent and recognize their true potential! Emily works with a diverse population of youth in middle school, high school and transition programs. Her work focuses on engaging teachers and students in identifying students' areas of intelligence and natural aptitudes and connecting those with work opportunities. Emily provides professional development trainings for schools, organizations and family groups on topics such as The Power of Having a Vision, Student-Directed IEP meetings, Discovering Students' Talents and Supported Decision-Making.

**Workshop details:** The Talent Discovery workshop engages youth in exercises and activities to help identify their talents, interests and what they care most about and who they are as a person. We will also explore career possibilities that match youths interests and talents.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Participants are inspired by who they naturally are
- Participants learn how they can use their skills and interests to thrive in life

- Participants discover new career possibilities

**Monday June 27 1:00-1:50pm**

**Workshop title:** Leadership, Challenge, and Support

**Workshop presenter(s):** Waypoint Adventure- Carly Steinauer

**Presenter bio(s):** Carly works at Waypoint Adventure, a nonprofit works with people with disabilities. We use adventure as a tool to work on skills such as teamwork or perseverance. She also runs Waypoint Adventure's Leaders-In-Training program. This program focuses on developing community and leadership skills and is for young adults with disabilities. Before working at Waypoint, Carly worked at an after-school program with kids in Boston where she helped them to share their stories, amplify their voices, and develop as leaders in school and life.

**Workshop details:** Growth happens outside of your comfort zone. Join Waypoint Adventure as we learn and reflect on the model of the challenge circle and how to use it to push yourself and others to learn and grow as leaders.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Participants will learn the model of the challenge circle
- Participants will self-identify and reflect on items in their own challenge circle
- Participants will identify qualities of a good leader
- Participants will self identify their own strengths and reflect on how to use those strengths to be good leaders
- Participants will learn how doing things that challenge us lead to growth and change

**Workshop title:** Supported Decision-Making: It's Your Choice So Get Out There and Use Your Voice

**Workshop presenter(s):** Anna Krieger, Sarah Binney, Marie Hennessy, Kim Plaut, Donna Jay, Brian Kremer

**Presenter bio(s):**

Kim Plaut is an artist and advocate. She is a board member of Mass Advocates Standing Strong and the Greater Boston Citizen Advisory Board. Kim's artwork has been featured on websites, greeting cards, booklets, and calendars. Kim helped to create Supported Decision-Making forms, videos, and presentations with the MASS Supported Decision-Making Task Force to make a difference in people with disabilities lives!

Marie Hennessy. As a child totally blind since birth, I was always excited to learn new things, and eager to explore new opportunities/activities introduced to me. Due to the support and encouragement I received from family, educators and friends I developed the confidence and ability to overcome the many challenges I faced in order to accomplish and pursue the rewarding career, education and active fulfilling life I dreamed of. During the past 45 years I have been employed working with persons with disabilities, their families and service providers. As a strong, passionate self-advocate

my determination and perseverance have contributed to my many successes which include: Extensive experience providing team leadership and supervisory support to staff and volunteers in a variety of nonprofit organizations, Experience developing and managing new programs and initiatives, Expertise managing employment programs and increasing job placements for persons with disabilities, Extensive experience in conducting presentations and facilitating trainings, Experience working within diverse environments with individuals with significant barriers to employment. Expertise in facilitating support and information groups for persons with disabilities and their families, Extensive experience conducting Consumer Outreach coordination and follow up services within the disability community.

Anna Krieger is the Director of Public Policy for the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. The Council is an independent state agency funded by the federal government. At the Council, Ms. Krieger works to promote inclusion and choice for people with developmental disabilities. One of her main focuses is working to advance supported decision-making. Supported decision-making is an alternative to guardianship that allows people to make their own choices with support. Ms. Krieger is a graduate of Haverford College and UC Berkeley School of Law.

**Workshop details:** Guardianship has been in the news a lot. But do you know there are other options? Supported decision-making is a different way to go. With supported decision-making you make your own choices with support from people you trust. At this workshop we will explain what supported decision-making is.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Understand basic concept of what a guardianship is and how supported decision-making is different
- Understand some of the common myths about guardianship
- Understand what supported decision-making is
- Understand how supported decision-making works and how it is used
- Understand what kind of decisions people make with supported decision-making
- Understand what a supporter does
- Understand what a supported decision-making agreement is
- Understand some of the things people often use with a supported decision-making agreement, like a health care proxy
- Have an opportunity to ask a lawyer personal questions about the person's situation
- Have an opportunity to brainstorm about who supporters could be

**Workshop title:** Assistive Technology Workshop

**Workshop presenter(s):** Easterseals: Michele Boutelle, COTA/L, ATP, DCP

**Presenter bio(s):** Michele Boutelle, MassMatch Assistive Technology Regional Center manager for the Boston and Worcester locations. I have a background in Occupational therapy, as well as being certified as an assistive technology professional and a dementia care practitioner. I've been working at Easterseals for 5 years providing assistive technology services throughout Massachusetts.

**Workshop details:** This presentation will cover types of Assistive Technology (AT), programs to help an individual with a disability obtain AT and a tour of the Assistive Technology Regional Center.

**Workshop objectives:**

- At the end of this presentation you will be able to name at least 3 programs that can help individuals obtain Assistive Technology.
- You will learn about various types of Assistive Technology and how it can help meet individual goals.
- Participants will be able to virtually see how devices are used and how they work.

**Monday June 27 2:30-3:20**

**Workshop title:** Making Your Voice Heard: Legislative Advocacy

**Workshop presenter(s):** Andre Williams, Tamara Huntley

**Presenter bio(s):** Andre Williams is a Lead Trainer for the Mass Developmental Disabilities Council and has been for over 9 years. He is an ambassador for Best Buddies and the recipient of the Craig Smith Spirit Award.

Tamara Huntley is a Lead Trainer for the Mass Developmental Disabilities Council and has been for over 10 years. She holds a Bachelor's in Social Work from Bridgewater State University and is a mother of two thriving teen-agers.

**Workshop details:** This interactive workshop will share how our trainers got started in legislative advocacy. Participants will be provided an overview of what Legislative Advocacy is, hear personal testimonies through a video of legislative advocacy in action through a pre-recorded video with Representative Barber. We will share tips on how to contact your legislators and have an open discussion of others in action to share ideas and questions.

**Workshop title:** Disability is a Qualification for Employment and that Matters to Business

**Workshop presenter(s):** Kathy Petkauskos

**Presenter bio(s):** Kathleen A. Petkauskos is the director of Work Without Limits and oversees all its programs and services including training and consulting, networks and events, benefits counseling services, and its Employment Network under Social Security's Ticket to Work program. Under her direction, Work Without Limits received the UMass Chan Chancellor's Award for exemplifying the mission of the medical school, and the Northeast Human Resources Association's Diversity Champion Award for consistently demonstrating an unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Ms. Petkauskos is an inductee of the Susan M. Daniels National Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame and has extensive experience in vocational evaluation, supported employment, benefits planning, and job placement for people with disabilities.

**Workshop details:** People with disabilities have life experiences that can help them succeed in the labor market. These life experiences can benefit any workplace. This workshop will overview disability from an employer's perspective and provide tips, key

words, and approaches on how individuals with disabilities can promote their disability as an asset to employer.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Challenge a personal misconception that surrounds people with disabilities and employment
- Identify at least 2 benefits employers seek to include people with disabilities in the workplace
- Identify at least 2 personal life experiences or skills that would position them as an asset to any employer

**Workshop title:** Self Advocacy Workshop

**Workshop presenter(s):** EPIC- Jeff Lafata

**Presenter bio(s):** Jeff Lafata-Hernandez (he/him/his), EPIC Executive Director. Jeff founded Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) in March of 2011 to address the growing need for transition-aged youth with disabilities to develop their leadership skills and become more active in their communities. For over 20 years, Jeff has devoted his career to working within the Disability Community in varied settings: classrooms, community organizations, residential programs, and vocational environments. His work with EPIC continues this passion by providing youth leadership programming and disability inclusion and ableism training to the community.

**Workshop details:** Join EPIC for this interactive workshop to better understand self-advocacy and the many ways one can be a self-advocate. Participants will learn more about themselves to assist them in their advocacy and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with self-advocacy.

**Workshop objectives:**

- Participants will gain a clear understanding of what self-advocacy means.
- Participants will understand what a person must do to be a self-advocate.
- Participants will better understand the various ways a person can be a self-advocate.

**Wednesday 6/29 10:00-10:50am**

**Workshop title:** #TeachDisabilityHistory

**Workshop presenter(s):** Easterseals- Desi Forte and Campaign Committee

**Workshop details:** Easterseals MA is working to promote the importance of teaching disability history in schools through the #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign. During this workshop students will hear from the young adults working on this campaign. They will share some of the work they have done to promote teaching disability history in schools, and everyone will play a game to test their knowledge of disability history. Easterseals Massachusetts is a nonprofit that works with people with disabilities to provide equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play.

**Workshop objectives:** The objectives are to promote the importance of teaching disability history, educate participants about the campaign, and hear why they think it is important to #TeachDisabilityHistory.